



# Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1, 2018

Wednesday 31st January, 2018

Welcome to the 2018 school year at St. Benedict's School. We trust that you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing Christmas holiday in plenty of sunshine.

For those of you who are new to our school, a particularly warm welcome to Manuka Syndicate. We are certain that you will quickly feel at home here. Other parents and the teachers are always happy to answer any questions that you might have and Coralie and Emma, who work in the school office, are friendly faces that are ready to lend a helping hand if needed.

Our syndicate, which comprises of the New Entrant to Year 2 students, begins the year as 3 classes. Mrs Charmaine McGowan is our new Years 1-2 teacher and we are delighted to have her join us.

The Manuka syndicate teachers and their rooms are:

Room 3	New Entrants / Year 1	Sarah Wood
Room 5	Year 1 and 2	Charmaine McGowan
Room 4	Year 2	Fiona Barnett



**Dates to Diary**

**Class Masses (Students attend these on a Wednesday morning at 9:15am with their buddy class)**

Room 3: 21<sup>st</sup> February

Room 4: 28<sup>th</sup> February

Room 5: 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Meet the Teacher Evening:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7:00pm in the school library

**Beginning of the Year / Ash Wednesday Mass:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 9:30am.

**School Picnic:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Manuka Athletics:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Nairnville. 9:30-1:00pm. Postponement date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March

## School Sunhats

Please provide your child with a named, school uniform sunhat which can be purchased through the school office. To ensure that it is available each school day, it can be safely left on classroom bag hooks, in chairbags or in schoolbags. During Terms 1 and 4 St. Benedict's has a "No hat, no play" policy, whereby those not wearing a hat remain in a shaded area.

## Sunscreen

In order to help protect your child(ren) from the sun, we encourage you to apply sunscreen on them before school each morning.

## Water

Please ensure your child(ren) have a large bottle of water to drink from throughout the school day. The teachers will encourage their students to drink regularly during the warmer weather so that they remain hydrated.

Our classrooms are air-conditioned and so pleasant to be in during the summer months. We are

confident that with sunhats, plenty of water, and sunscreen, our students will be sun-smart this term.

### **School Uniform**

Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing our summer school uniform. For both boys and girls, the optional footwear is either black shoes or black sandals. If shoes are worn, the boys wear them with our long, dark blue school uniform socks, and the girls, short, plain white ankle socks. The girls may wear navy blue leggings or shorts beneath their dresses, however please make sure that they are shorter than the dress. Hair ties, clips and headbands can be worn in the school colours of navy, , black, maroon and white. For safety reasons, earrings should be plain studs. We ask that other jewellery such as necklaces or bracelets is removed for school as it is a hazard; particularly during play. Please don't hesitate to talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding the uniform.

### **Morning Prayers**

Each day begins with Morning Prayers. It is a pleasure to have parents stay for these and the students love having their families present, however we ask that if pre-schoolers attend, they do so as quietly as is possible.

### **Sport**

Unlike the previous few years, we have decided to end rather than begin the school year with Swimming! This term therefore, we will enjoy a joint focus: Hockey, which will be a school-wide activity, and Athletics. We will hold an Athletics event at Nairnville in Week 8 (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March), and include some short-course races for a change.

Hockey lessons will begin in Week 2 and conclude in Week 8. They will be held each Wednesday with the exception of Week 3 (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February) and Week 7 (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March). The students can wear sports mufti including sports shoes to school on Wednesdays, regardless of the weather.

A notice will be sent out to you shortly, informing you of Athletics practices and the need to wear sports mufti for these.

### **School Picnic**

This is planned for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February and parents are most welcome to join in this fun, school-wide event at Eastbourne beach, park and pool. We always have a sand-creation activity, and so your child is most welcome to bring along a named spade and/or any non-precious 'decorations' to contribute to their group or class creation!

## **Topics Covered this Term**

### **Religious Education and Health**

The syndicate begins the term with the very worthwhile Religious Education unit called *Myself and Others*. This unit accompanies the Health unit *Kia Kaha* that has been developed by the New Zealand Police. Together the two units encourage the students to value themselves and others; particularly family and friends. They provide useful strategies for making friends and establishing

a happy classroom. We are delighted to include a play performed by *The Little Dog Barking Company* and a visit from Aaron our friendly school policeman, in this study.

The second Religious Education topic is *God*. The focus of this study is *God the Creator*, the main concepts being that all creation, including people, should be respected. The students will consider practical ways in which they can care for the world; including their classroom and school. The term ends by studying *Lent, Holy Week* and *Easter*.

### **English: Ideas Strand**

The term's focus is the ways in which authors express their ideas visually and in writing. As authors themselves, the students will practise developing and presenting their own ideas through drawings and writing, and will identify the main ideas found in the books they read at school.

### **Mathematics**

The main emphasis in Mathematics will be *Number Knowledge*. We will practise reading, sequencing, adding and subtracting numbers. Additionally, we will explore the *Statistics* strand: learning how to collect, organise, analyse and present information as simple tables and graphs.

### **Health Topic**

In the second half of the term we will complete a *Keeping Ourselves Safe* unit, with a practical look at the safe use of bikes and scooters. Once again we are fortunate to have Aaron, the policeman associated with our school, help us practise being safe around roads and vehicles.

### **The Arts**

This subject area will be integrated into our learning, with an emphasis on drama in the *Kia Kaha / Myself and Others* unit.

### **Te Reo**

The syndicate will practise simple greetings and Year 2 will learn how to introduce themselves. Simple classroom vocabulary will be gradually introduced over the term. We will meet as a syndicate one afternoon a week for Te Reo and singing.

### **ICT**

The children will become familiar with the basic operation of laptops and i-Pads, which they will use in our literacy and mathematics programmes.

### **Daily Fitness**

Weather permitting, the students will enjoy a fitness and skill-development session with their teacher each day. These sessions will in part focus on preparing for our Manuka Athletics at Nairnville in Week 8. Sunhats will be worn.

### **Homework**

Homework activities will begin at the end of Week 3, with homework books going home each Friday. Please ensure that the homework books are back at school for marking by the following Thursday so that the work can be marked and the following week's homework given.

Homework activities will differ from class to class and your child's teacher will inform you of these. Please inform your child's teacher if homework is not completed.

We wish you and your children a very happy term indeed. Please feel most welcome to approach us if you have any questions or concerns. We will do all that we can to assist you.

**Anne Minto (Manuka Syndicate Leader), Sarah Wood, Charmaine McGowan and Fiona Barnett**